

2PAC 08 August 2011 Meeting

Start: 6:07 pm
Introductions: 26 in attendance
Minutes: July minutes tabled to Sept.
Treasurer's Report: July report tabled to Sept.

Court Watch Speakers

Gail and Hillary representing Hennepin County Attorney's office spoke about important criteria for selecting candidates.

- It is important that there is fairness and a solid basis for impact statements. Consider the example of 89 arrests causing damage to the community. Having predetermined objective criteria will justify why one person was picked over the other.
- Find the main offenders. The best for group to focus on is those committing crimes where the attorney's office needs more help – career offenders, felons in possession of a weapon, etc.
- There is a greater need for impact statements in some cases than others.

What felonies lend themselves to courtwatch? – Those with community impact. Personal crimes have historically allowed individual victims the ability to comment on impact, but the community has not been able to comment on cases affecting it. Social livability crimes previously had no possibility for impact statements to be made, but now this is changing. Judges can have a tendency to look only at the single crime rather than the career offender statute.

The Attorney's office has seen that this really does work. 3rd precinct drug situation was fixed by the neighbors banding together and the old drug court folding, giving rise to a better system.

Hicks list is an electronic alert list to alert concerned department when an arrest is made, or when inmates are released from the workhouse, etc.

Court watch is leaving out social host and open bottle except when they have multiple contacts. Often it is not necessary for these offenders to go to court to resolve the offense.

Courtwatch

The amount of arrest information has been very large. Three candidates were brought to the meeting for discussion.

The case of G.P.Bruski has been closed. He received non-monitored probation. 4th degree burglary plea bargain.

The case of S.W.Bruski is open and he will go to trial.

D.J.Cottier was not referred to the County Attorney's office. He was not charged. He is recommended for removal from the Courtwatch list. He was removed hearing no objection to do so from Courtwatch members.

F.Y.Griffin case has been charged and August arraignment date has been set.

L.E.Herber has been charged with an August hearing date.

T.T.Hon caused a great impact in the Fillmore street community. The case has been charged. An August appearance has been scheduled.

P.A.Houser brought forward as a livability crime individual. She does not yet have a court case number. A new charge has been brought forward.

E.A.Patterson he was sentenced for 1st degree aggravated robbery. He was sent to 48 month state sentence with 1 year served in the workhouse. Prisoners serve 2/3 of the sentenced time minus the time already spent in jail.

SD Skinaway burglary arrest scheduled for an August hearing. He has a long misdemeanor record. There is still time for commentary. He is looking at a possible 12-15 month sentence with a shorter time spent in jail.

He was picked up on probation violation and impact statements may not be necessary.

Geoprohibitions – if a person does not live or work in an area, a request can be made for exclusion of the person from the impacted area.

Georestriction in 2nd precinct – areas of hotspots have been located. Maps can be designed for individual offenders. The restrictions are a great tool when local crime impacts can be demonstrated. If no georestriction is possible, a curfew can be imposed instead.

Currently the 2nd precinct is filtering the arrest data with the criteria that was set at the last meeting. We will be receiving a summary prior to the next meeting. We will then vote on adding or not offenders from the list.

There is a group that has a precourtwatch meeting prior to the actual courtwatch meeting. Then a person is presented for removal. Once a person is sentenced it will be recommended that they be removed from the list. The Hicks list will alert when they are released and or reoffend.

3rd Precinct burglary Courtwatch regularly has 20-30 people in attendance. They have generated 130 impact statements for 8-10 offenders. It is important that the impact statement be quality.

2nd precinct report from Inspector Schafer

2nd Precinct has seen a spike in NE and SE burglaries. The police have reached out to the businesses and are looking at hotspots over the past 10 years. They are tracking offenders committing crimes in those areas. This information can help feed into Courtwatch.

Tornado influx, school let out, and summer all came together to have a large increase in crime on Central Ave. Calls for service went up 200 calls per week. A number of the robberies arrests came from the influx. Comments came out against the recent reporting of increased crime, but race was not a factor in this. The police have only been focusing on behavior. 2nd is doing outreach to the parents and knocking on doors. There is a beat on Central Ave. to address the uptick. Portable cameras have been brought in to combat the problem. The goal is for business to prosper on Central Avenue. The number of calls per week has fallen now back to average. It was up to 1200 calls for service. Now down to 900.

Juvenile issues tend to rise with displacement. The kids don't have the watch network that was in place in the old neighborhood. Many don't live here, but are simply drifting in and out. Many were dislocated from regular summer activities and got into problems because of it. When school starts, schools will provide a support system for some of these families. The police have looked into programming at the parks.

The city has had to take victims as far as Egan to find alternate living space, post tornado.

Small increases in crime in 2nd can look very large on paper, but may only relate to a small number of cases. The increase is of concern, but not a very large number.

Crime Prevention Specialist situation in 2nd Precinct – current CPSs are free to move, but no one has taken up the offer. 2nd is waiting to see the budget and is reprioritizing to deal with the situation. It is important to continue to be vigilant. The number of requests for service can be justification to ask for another CPS. We don't want to justify a decision not to fill the situation. Street presence and response is still strong.

Next 2PAC meeting Sept 12th at 6pm

Adjourn: 8:00 pm